

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SCA-01 SY-05 CPR-01 PM-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /038 W

----- 101629

O 070631Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7941

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO MSGBN ARLINGTON, VA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0181

AMMAN AND DAMASCUS - FOR COL. LOETHE

ADDIS FOR F. CO.

DOD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, MA

SUBJ: VISA REFUSALS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

REF: A. TANA 155 B. STATE 029733

1. RAKOTONDRAMASY CALLED ME BACK FEB. 6 TO STATE THAT MINISTER HAD DECIDED PREVIOUS EVENING NOT TO AUTHORIZE VISAS FOR KOETHE AND LEMERISE, DESPITE PURPOSE STATED IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE WE SENT FEB. 4 THAT THE TWO VISITORS WERE HERE SOLELY FOR PURPOSE OF INSPECTING SECURITY OF EMBASSY. I ASKED IF THIS WAS NEW POLICY. RAKOTONDRAMASY SAID NO, AS FAR AS HE KNEW. I THEN NOTED THAT THIS MUST BE "SPECIAL CASE", TO WHICH RAKOTONDRAMASY AGREED SINCE HE KNEW OF NO OTHER REASON.

2. I HAD HOPES OF SEEING FONMIN FEB. 6 SINCE, AS REPORTED ABOVE, HE APPARENTLY MADE FINAL DECISION. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNAVAILABLE AND I SAW MFA SEC GEN INSTEAD AT 5:30 P.M. LATTER SAID
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THAT VISAS WERE REFUSED BECAUSE GDRM DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT EMB

NEEDS SECURITY INSPECTION. I REPLIED THAT THIS WAS WORLDWIDE MATTER FOR ALL OUR EMBASSIES, THAT WE PERCEIVED NO IMMEDIATE THREAT HERE IN MADAGASCAR, AND THAT KOETHE AND LEMERISE WERE VISITING NUMEROUS POSTS NOT JUST TANANARIVE. SECGEN POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS VERY DELICATE PERIOD FOR GDRM AND MATTERS WHICH LEAVE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ARE TREATED WITH GREAT CARE. I SAID THAT I HOPED THIS WAS NOT FORESHADOWING OF OTHER RESTRICTIONS. SECGEN RESPONDED NO, RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT APPLY TO OUR REGULAR FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS (WHOSE VISAS ALREADY GRANTED) OR REPLACEMENT OF DEFENSE ATTACHE. HE DID NOT GIVE ME GROUNDS FOR ENCOURAGEMENT RE KOETHE AND LEMERISE BUT HE PROMISED TO TAKE MATTER UP AGAIN WITH FONMIN AND PRESENT IT INTO US PERSPECTIVE. I HAVE NONETHELESS REQUESTED SHORT APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN FEB. 7 WHICH I AM NOT HOPEFUL OF GETTING.

3. GDRM "POLICY" IN THIS CASE SMACKS OF ANTI-WESTERN DISCRIMINATION SINCE SOVS AND ESPECIALLY CHINESE HAVE CONSTANT STREAM OF OFFICIAL VISITORS TO ADMINISTER AND CHECK ON THEIR LARGE EMBASSIES AND STAFFS. SHEINBAUM

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